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Nik Aziz-Invitation

NIK AZIZ WANTS INVITATION TO FUTURE MEETINGS

KOTA BAHARU, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat has asked Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to invite him and his Terengganu counterpart, Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang, to future meetings of menteris besar and chief ministers.

The PAS leaders of these two states should be invited to show that the democratic system under the new prime minister was going well, he told reporters after launching the Kota Baharu Municipal Council's welfare fund here.

Nik Aziz, who is also the PAS spiritual leader, expressed regret that he and Abdul Hadi, who is also PAS president, were not invited to the meeting of menteris besar and chief ministers chaired for the first time by Abdullah in Putrajaya yesterday.

When Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the prime minister, the two menteris besar were also not invited to such meetings.

At yesterday's meeting, Abdullah directed the menteris besar and chief ministers to set up a special task force in their states to cut bureaucracy to ensure a more efficient administration and prevent corruption.

Nik Aziz said that because he and Abdul Hadi were excluded from such an important meeting, a piece of prime information from the federal government did not reach the state governments and this could affect the implementation of the country's policies.

He said Terengganu and Kelantan were prepared to set up such a task force.

However, Kelantan would establish the task force only after receiving a written directive from the federal government because it did not want to be accused of not following procedure, he added.

-- BERNAMA

WM RAR JK